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Approx. 520 words

SHARED BEAUTY

By

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The summer is waning but today is delightful. Cool, clear air - (no humidity) - blue skies with puffy white clouds. There's a sweetness in the air - a delicious sweetness one longs to hold for weeks, not just for the few remaining August days.

Idly paddling along the wooded shores, where the reflections beautify the below-the-surface scene, one loses himself in all the beauty he sees.

As the canoe glides along the mirror surface of the lake, a Wood Thrush, in the thicket near the shore, gives her warning call to her fledglings - a Chickadee, hanging upside down to the tip of a slightly moving branch, stops eating long enough to call "chick-a-dee dee dee" to the delight of the listeners.

The moss covered log lying parallel to the shore line is resplendent with clusters of fern, an occasional plant of Turtlehead and a trailing Nightshade vine whose berries are just turning from orange to red. Farther up along the shore the dazzling beauty of the Cardinal Flower makes a red glow in the reflection in the shadowed water. Soothing - rewarding is this scene. Thought-provoking on this clear bright August morning when the warmth of the sun, as one emerges from the shadow of over-hanging boughs of Maple and of Yellow Birch, brings a body glow of comfort to the paddler.

Out from the shadowy shore into the sunlight, on and on along the waterway, past the over-hanging Hemlocks, the Wayfarer Bush with berries still